



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

"Five enemies of peace inhabit with us — avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride; if these were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace." — Petrarch



Vol. 4 No. 17

The New Year's Issue

January 11, 2005

## Spring Semester Begins

ESL classes began at the main two sites last week. Average class size was about 17 students. Lifelong Learning classes also began, with slightly smaller class sizes. Other classes begin this week or next. Although next Monday is a holiday, Martin Luther King Day, there will be Saturday classes on the 15th. The semester is planned to end on June 3. Summer session may begin on June 13, depending on whether we will run over our CAP or not. This is something that is being reported on a regular basis to School Council. Summer session dates should be firmed up by March. Speaking of monitoring attendance... both attendance and payroll sheets have been turned in late by more than a few instructors. This complicates the work for both Debbie (who needs to do regular attendance reports) and Marjorie (who must work under very strict timelines to submit payroll information to the district, who turns it in to the county, who pays us).



January 3 saw the return of our Office Manager after two months of leave. Although Lucila did a smashing job subbing for Nat, it was a pleasure to see Nat back in the saddle, looking fit as a fiddle, and jumping in puddles.

## Welcome Back Natalie!!

**Multi-level Community Based English Tutoring/ESL/ Parenting Class at Freedom School Monday through Friday 8:30 to 11:00am**



This special ESL CBET/Parenting Class will incorporate language development, parenting skills, and information parents need to know to help their children with homework, access information about their children's school, learn K-12 curriculum vocabulary so they can help their children be successful in school, understand how the K-12 school system works to ensure that their children are taking the right classes to achieve their goals. The teacher will also coordinate visits to K-6 classes at Freedom so that tutoring can be practiced in the Freedom classes. The teacher must be able to work cooperatively with Freedom School Staff

The following knowledge and abilities are very desirable

- Be able to assess learning needs and levels and design lessons to meet these.
- Be able to maintain attendance of 15 or more students to ensure continuation of class.
- Be able to differentiate instruction to address all ESL levels *particularly* Beginning Low to Beginning High; all learning modalities, and multi-intelligences.
- Be able to translate this into fun and interactive activities and projects adult ESL students can apply to their lives and use with their children.
- K-12 curriculum, standards, grading system.
- How parents can build children's esteem and be involved in their children's education.
- Teaching Basic computers to ESL students.

Contact Cynthia Stark

*How do we know students are getting what they want and need? Of course one way is simply to ask them. This is the second year that, as a school, we have decided to offer students in every class the opportunity to fill out a satisfaction survey.*

**From Cathy Jo Diaz: The ESL Student Satisfaction Survey results, for Fall 2004 have been tallied and will soon be sent to each individual teacher, along with the originals from the students. Thanks to Silvia Austerlic, WAAE's Spanish teacher (Aptos High, Tuesday nights) all of the feedback has been translated into English for easy reading.**

**21 ESL teachers returned their surveys!!!! (see below) And 463 ESL students were surveyed!!! Here are just a few of their comments. Please note that the translation keeps the flavor of the students' expressions.**

- The teacher is good & patient.
- We are learning a lot, and we get much help for free.
- We have good communication with the teacher.
- He really teaches very well.
- The teacher tries that we don't speak Spanish in class, and pays much attention to the group.
- I want to give thanks to all the school staff and teachers for the professionalism.
- They explain everything very well, they make us feel good and help us keep coming to class.
- The teacher is excellent and I liked the way she explained things.
- I want to practice more communication because we need to speak many words in English.
- She's one of the best teachers, very patient, and her explanations are clear and specific.
- I love very much the fact that we are learning English that we can use every day.
- I'd like to have one day per week a conversation class.
- I truly admire you, thanks for all your support and patience. You are helping us a lot with your enthusiasm in this kind of program.
- I would like a music class, beauty salon class, conversation class, sewing class.
- I'd like to have a small library where we could borrow the GED books.
- Many people talk in class and we can't hear the teacher.
- She's an excellent teacher; although, some students speak all the time and interrupt her a lot.
- I am taking this class so that I can help my kids with homework.
- I want to learn English to get a better job.
- I suggest we have more discipline in class.
- She explains a thing in many ways (in English) until everybody understands. She has a good system to teach.
- I suggest more team work so we can practice more conversation. (BL1 student)
- The best part in the class is the friendship with everybody and the teacher.
- We have many exercises with graphics (pictures and drawings) that help us understand better.
- We learned playing games; the handouts helped us learn faster.
- He's very devoted to our learning, enthusiastic and generous with his knowledge.



# WAAS Calendar

Leadership Meeting

Friday, Jan 14, 1:00-3:00, Green Valley

Martin Luther King Holiday

(no school)

Monday, Jan. 17

Student Councils

Porter Day - Tuesday, Jan. 18, 12:00

Porter Evening - Tuesday, Jan 18, 9:00

Green Valley Day - Wednesday, Jan 19, 12:00

Green Valley Night - Wednesday, Jan 19, 9:00

Note that Student  
Council meetings  
are the third  
week of the  
month this  
semester.

School Council

Porter, Room 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 19, 5:00-6:00

eClass training (paid for new teachers)

Green Valley - Friday, Jan. 21, 1:30-3:30

Citizenship Department Meeting

Porter, Room 27 - Monday, Jan. 24, 4:00-5:00

California Council for Adult Education

Bay Section Annual Workshop

New Haven Adult School - Saturday, Jan. 29

(This is the principal adult ed. advocacy organization in the state).



...we received a note from Lynn Simmons who is still enjoying her leave living in Sweden... we also saw Al Corriea who is doing well but still out on leave... our sympathy to Veronica Marquez who recently lost her mother... **Happy January Birthdays to Cesca Hampton**

**(4th), Angelyn Redstone (6th), Sue Colley (11th), Kim Iwasko (14th), and Pauline Urias (18th)....**

There will be an eClass Manager training on Friday January 21, 2005 from 1:30p.m – 3:30p.m. If anyone is interested in doing their attendance on the computer, please contact Debbie or Kim Iwasko.

(Join the future now!!)

